



U.S.-Mexico Border 2020 Environmental Program

Regional Workgroup for Texas, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas

Action Plan for 2013-2014

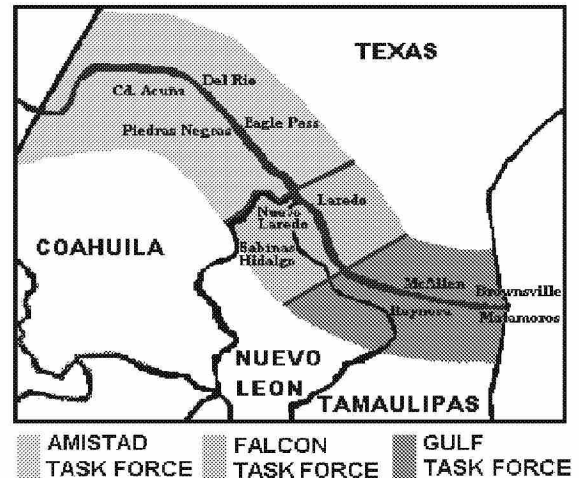
Final Report -- December 2014

This Regional Workgroup, one of four within the Border 2020 program, is often referred to as the "Four-State Workgroup." It is the most complex Workgroup because of its geographical expanse and the number of municipalities. In Mexico, the region includes parts of three states and a total of at least 29 municipios. On the U.S. side, it includes 168 cities and towns. Recognizing this, the workgroup divided itself into three geographically based task forces--Amistad, Falcon, and Gulf--each of which has established subject-specific committees related to its priority concerns.

As Border 2020 was taking shape in late 2012, local, state, and federal participants began creation of the program's first two-year action plan for 2013-2014. Projects were added over time. This report is the final update on the projects for that two-year plan. A new two-year plan will be created for 2015-2016, and some unfinished projects will be carried over.

Be aware that this action plan does not include infrastructure projects related directly to Border 2020 goals and objectives in air, water, and waste that have been financed in part or in full by the binational North American Development Bank. For information on those projects, see <http://www.nadbank.org/>.

The projects are organized according to the Border 2020 goal being addressed. Border-wide there are five goals, but this Regional Workgroup has added a sixth goal under which cross-cutting projects that are related to health or education, and which overlap two or more of the official goals, can be grouped. Also, be aware that no information on costs was available for some projects.



Index

Goal 1: Reduce Air Pollution	page 2
Goal 2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water	page 15
Goal 3: Promote Materials Management, Waste Management, and Clean Sites	page 31
Goal 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response	page 46
Goal 5: Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship	[No projects categorized under this goal]
Goal 6: Promote Cross-Cutting Efforts related to Environmental Health and Environmental Education	page 51

Goal 1: Reduce Air Pollution

Project Number: 1.1.01

Project Title: **Development of vehicle inspection program in Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, in accordance with the NAFTA, promote the reduction of the number of vehicles operating in the border region that do not comply with the respective vehicle emissions standards, and reduce vehicle emissions at ports-of-entry through anti-idling and other feasible reduction measures.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Continue developing Coahuila's vehicle inspection program in Acuña, Piedras Negras, Monclova, Saltillo, and Ramos Arizpe. Consult with the TCEQ regarding how the Texas program works. Inspect 40 percent of all vehicles by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Humberto Fuentes Ramírez *E-mail Address:* humberto.fuentes@coahuila.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Cost: \$700,000 *Source of Funding:* Originally SEMA; now the municipalities

Summary of Status:

Implementation is in progress.

The original commitment was made by a former administration in Coahuila. The current administration reports that no state funding is available and all jurisdiction is at the municipal level.

Acuña obtained the necessary equipment in late 2014 and will put it to use as soon as possible. Officials in Nava report they are trying to identify funding that will allow the purchase of equipment and initiation of implementation in 2015.

Project Number: 1.5.01

Project Title: **Grants program for energy efficiency in local governments in the Texas border region**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Implement a one-time matching grants program for efficiency projects in the border region of Texas, for which cities, counties, school districts, community colleges, and irrigation districts are eligible, and complete the program by August 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Entire Four-State Region

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: LBJ School, University of Texas at Austin

Contact Name: David Eaton *E-mail Address:* eaton@mail.utexas.edu

Collaborating Organization(s): Local governmental units in the Texas border region

Cost: \$175,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA, through the TCEQ

Summary of Status:

The LBJ School made grants to six projects, all of which were completed by July 2013.

The School issued the RFP in October 2012. An independent committee reviewed twenty-one applications and recommended six projects: two cities, an irrigation district, and three school districts. The University awarded grants to those entities, which subsequently completed their projects by the summer of 2013.

Project Number: 1.5.02

Project Title: **Initiation of Phase 2 of Coahuila's State Climate Action Plan (PEAC)**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Perform an econometric evaluation of the mitigation policies that were selected in Phase 1, and complete by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza (COCEF)

Contact Name: Tomás Balarezo *E-mail Address:* tbalarezo@cocef.org

Collaborating Organization(s): Coahuila State Government

Cost: \$275,000 *Source of Funding:* Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Summary of Status:

A "Comité Intersecretarial ante el Cambio Climático" (CICC) has been established, as well as Integrated Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Advisory Group (AG). A consultant has been hired, and a local coordinator and local experts recruited.

Project Number: 1.5.03

Project Title: **Initiation of Phase 2 of the State Climate Action Plan (PEAC) for Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Select a number of prioritized policies for mitigation of climate change by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza (COCEF)

Contact Name: Tomás Balarezo *E-mail Address:* tbalarezo@cocef.org

Collaborating Organization(s): Tamaulipas State Government

Cost: \$100,000 *Source of Funding:* Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Summary of Status:

Five technical groups began work in July 2012.

In 2013-14, the state strategy was redesigned. A "Comité Intersecretarial ante el Cambio Climático" (CICC) was been established, as well as Integrated Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Advisory Group (AG). A consultant was hired.

Project Number: 1.5.04

Project Title: **Researching the potential for harnessing wind power for electricity in Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

This project is a subset of project # 1.5.11. See that latter project below.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected:

State(s): *Country:*

Implementing Organization:

Contact Name: *E-mail Address:*

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: *Source of Funding:*

Summary of Status:

See project # 1.5.11.

Project Number: 1.5.05

Project Title: **Researching the potential for harnessing wind power for electricity in Nuevo León**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Establish wind monitors in selected areas of the state by the end of 2013, and begin generating wind maps in 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Nuevo León *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable (SDS)

Contact Name: Norma Rangel Sevilla *E-mail Address:* normaarangel@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: \$10,000 *Source of Funding:* Mexican federal funds and/or CONACYT

Summary of Status:

Based on information from monitors installed by an independent party, SDS has generated a wind map with data with a resolution of 5 km. In the next stage, SDS will generate a map with a resolution of 1 km. SDS expects to have the latter completed in 2015.

Project Number: 1.5.06

Project Title: **Generation of electricity from methane extracted from the Nuevo Laredo landfill**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Construct the facility and have it in full operation by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Municipio de Nuevo Laredo

Contact Name: Ing. Carlos De Anda *E-mail Address:* cdeandah@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Servicios de Tecnología Ambiental S.A. (SETASA)

Cost: \$3,500,000 *Source of Funding:* Company to be selected will provide financing, and subsequently obtain revenue from the sale of electricity to CFE.

Summary of Status:

A feasibility study was completed 2008 with funding from USAID. Issuance of a tender for construction has been pending for several years; the municipio needs to obtain the property title. As of the fall of 2014, the project was on hold.

Project Number: 1.5.07

Project Title: **Emission-reduction technologies for Mexican heavy-duty trucks in cross-border trade in Nuevo Laredo-Lar**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Implement a pilot program to diagnose the existing Mexican fleet of heavy-duty commercial trucks in cross-border trade in the Laredo -Nuevo Laredo area, identify retrofit technologies that would reduce emissions, and share information on those technologies, their costs, and suppliers at a binational forum.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas

Country: Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)

Contact Name: Ing. Eduardo Olivares

E-mail Address: eduardo.olivares@semarnat.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: \$50,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA funding through the BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed in 2013.

The study collected information from 456 companies and on 2,756 drayage trucks. Half of the sampled trucks were from model year 2000 or earlier, and 84 percent were model year 2006 or earlier.

A final report summarized the information and offered information on retrofit technologies that could reduce emissions, and a workshop was held in Nuevo Laredo in September 2013.

Project Number: 1.5.08

Project Title: **Establishment of an air quality monitoring network in selected municipios in Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Establish an air quality monitoring network in the municipios of Piedras Negras, Nava, Acuña, Sabinas, and Saltillo, Coahuila by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Humberto Fuentes Ramírez *E-mail Address:* humberto.fuentes@coahuila.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): The municipios

Cost: \$1,400,000 *Source of Funding:* Secretario de Medio Ambiente

Summary of Status:

Implementation was begun, but the schedule for completion has been extended by two or more years.

In 2013 SEMA began working with local officials to include these projects in the plans of the applicable "Metropolitan Zones".

Plans currently call for a network to be deployed in Saltillo in 2015 and in Piedras Negras in 2016.

Project Number: 1.5.09

Project Title: **Application of energy-efficiency retrofits to public buildings in Piedras Negras and Acuña, Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Hold a series of workshops to involve municipal agencies in Piedras Negras and Acuña in identifying opportunities for energy-efficiency retrofits, and select at least 10 buildings for pilot projects.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente (SEMA)

Contact Name: Alejandra Carrera *E-mail Address:* alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): Municipios of Piedras Negras and Acuña

Cost: \$500,000 *Source of Funding:* Secretaría de Medio Ambiente

Summary of Status:

With assistance from the BECC, workshops were held in December 2013 in Piedras Negras and Acuña, disseminating information on how public buildings could be made more energy-efficient.

No information is available regarding whether 10 pilot projects are being pursued.

Project Number: 1.5.10

Project Title: **Design and implementation of vehicle emission inspection programs in Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Have a vehicle inspection program in operation in border municipios by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente (SEDUMA)

Contact Name: Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas *E-mail Address:* seduma@tamaulipas.gov.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMARNAT

Cost: *Source of Funding:* SEDUMA and SEMARNAT

Summary of Status:

SEDUMA initiated a pilot program focused on the state-owned fleet in early 2013. Additional implementation has been put on hold, with the hope that a program for private vehicles can be initiated in 2015.

Project Number: 1.5.11

Project Title: **Promotion of renewable and alternative energy use in Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Prepare action plan for nine wind power projects and for the state's strategic energy program.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas

Country: Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas

E-mail Address: seduma@tamaulipas.gov.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMARNAT

Cost:

Source of Funding: SEDUMA and SEMARNAT

Summary of Status:

All intentions for 2013-2014 were essentially met.

In October 2014 SEDUMA hosted the Third International Congress on Renewable Energy in Cd. Victoria. The same month, the governor established an energy council with representatives from business, academia, and government. Promotion of renewable energy and efficiency was among its charges.

The most successful renewable development in 2013-2014 has been with wind energy. As of January 2014, companies had registered 26 wind farm proposals, with total potential capacity of nearly 2,600 MW, for possible development. Two of them, totaling 91 MW of capacity, are expected to be in operation by the end of 2015, with a third project of undetermined size also possible in that time frame.

The state developed and distributed practical guides on conservation of energy for offices and schools, small businesses, industry, the home, automobile use, and public lighting systems, as well as a set of practical recommendations on avoiding unnecessary expenses in standby mode.

In addition, 16 companies set up a trust fund (fideicomiso) to expand renewable energy infrastructure in Tamaulipas.

Project Number: 1.5.12

Project Title: **Strengthening Tamaulipas' atmospheric monitoring system**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Have the system fully operating in at least eight municipios, with programmatic consistency standards, by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas *E-mail Address:* seduma@tamaulipas.gov.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMARNAT and EPA

Cost: *Source of Funding:* SEDUMA and EPA/BECC

Summary of Status:

Eight municipalities have the equipment for air monitoring of PM10 (Matamoros, Reynosa, Nuevo Laredo, Victoria, Mante, Tampico, Madero, and Altamira). Currently only three of these have their network in operation (Nuevo Laredo, Victoria, and Tampico).

Project Number: 1.5.13

Project Title: **Environmental management system that includes energy efficiency in all border municipios of Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Train staff in all border municipios by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas *E-mail Address:* seduma@tamaulipas.gov.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): EPA and BECC

Cost: \$100,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA/BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

Tamaulipas authorities trained approximately 100 persons from 16 municipalities in the border region and the San Fernando Valley region at a workshop held in Reynosa (no information was given on when this occurred).

Project Number: 1.5.14

Project Title: **Support for attendance of school district officials at statewide conference on energy efficiency**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Provide financial support for (a) one staff person responsible for facilities and operations and (b) one member of the district board of directors from each of nine school districts in the Texas border region at the annual Clean Energy through Energy Efficiency conference in November 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf, Falcon, and Amistad Task

State(s): Regional *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin

Contact Name: David Eaton , Ph.D. *E-mail Address:* eaton@mail.utexas.edu

Collaborating Organization(s): LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin and school districts

Cost: \$27,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA and TCEQ

Summary of Status:

This project was completed.

In September 2014 the LBJ School of Public Affairs issued a solicitation of interest in September 2014 to 100 school districts in the border region. Seven districts applied and were granted support; three additional districts would have applied but they had scheduling conflicts. One of the seven districts failed to show up at the conference.

Goal 2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

Project Number: 2.0.01

Project Title: **Construction and operation of a desalination plant in Nuevo León that uses a renewable source of energy**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

This project address the Border 2020 goal, but does not fall under any of the specific, formal objectives for this goal that are laid out in the Border 2020 framework.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Have the plant in operation by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Nuevo León *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable (SDS)

Contact Name: Norma Rangel Sevilla *E-mail Address:* normaarangel@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Servicios de Agua y Drenaje de Monterrey (SADM)

Cost: *Source of Funding:* SADM, EPA/BECC and Comisión Nacional de Agua

Summary of Status:

The project was cancelled.

Project Number: 2.0.02

Project Title: **Organizing periodic Water Awareness Summits in the Lower Rio Grande Valley**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

This project address the Border 2020 goal, but does not fall under any of the specific, formal objectives for this goal that are laid out in the Border 2020 framework.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Organize a periodic Water Awareness Summit to educate the public in the Lower Rio Grande Valley about where their water comes from, how the planning process works, and the outlook is for supply, and the importance of conservation.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Contact Name: Claudia Lozano *E-mail Address:* claudia.lozano@tceq.texas.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): State Representative Eddie Lucio III, cities and water utilities, the Rio Grande Regional Wa

Cost: \$15,000 *Source of Funding:* Local agencies and private sponsors

Summary of Status:

The objectives were fully met.

The first Water Awareness Summit was held in February 2013. More than 200 people attended and expressed interest in making the event annual. A second Summit was held in March 2014, with approximately 300 attendees. A third Summit will be held in December 2014.

Project Number: 2.0.03

Project Title: **Compliance training for small water utilities**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

This project address the Border 2020 goal, but does not fall under any of the specific, formal objectives for this goal that are laid out in the Border 2020 framework.work.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Hold workshops in three different locations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in 2014 for small water supply systems in the Texas, with at least one workshop in Spanish, and invite Mexican utilities.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas and Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

Contact Name: Bessie Orr Williams

E-mail Address: Bessie.Williams@teex.tamu.edu

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: \$15,000 *Source of Funding:* U.S. EPA

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

Three identical workshops were held on successive days in September 2014 in Rio Grande, McAllen, and South Padre Island, Texas. A total of 68 utility staff persons attended, 20 of them from Mexico. The workshop in McAllen was provided in Spanish. Topics included basic water quality, groundwater production, surface water production, disinfection, and distribution.

Project Number: 2.1.01

Project Title: **Feasibility studies for wastewater treatment plants in Hidalgo and Guerrero, Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: Promote the increase in the number of homes connected to safe drinking water and adequate wastewater treatment.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Sub-objective 1.b: By 2015, promote access to adequate wastewater sanitation to 42,000 households. Revise target every two years.

Intended Activities:

Conduct feasibility studies for wastewater treatment plants in the municipalities of Hidalgo and Guerrero, Coahuila by 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila

Country: Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente (SEMA)

Contact Name: Alejandra Carrera

E-mail Address: alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMA and CEAS (State of Coahuila) and CONAGUA (federal)

Cost: \$15,000 *Source of Funding:* State of Coahuila and CONAGUA

Summary of Status:

The feasibility studies were completed in 2013, and CEAS expressed the intention of implementing water management programs in those municipalities.

Project Number: 2.2.01

Project Title: **Educational water-quality monitoring events in conjunction with 2012/2013 World Water Monitoring Chal**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Provide teacher training workshops and/or on-site facilitators to help teachers, students, or other volunteers to identify monitoring sites, take samples, and submit samples to the Texas Partnership for Water Education for analysis.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Entire Four-State Region

State(s): Texas

Country: United States

Implementing Organization: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Contact Name: Karen Bick

E-mail Address: bick.karen@epa.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): Texas Partnership for Water Education, the Water Environment Association of Texas, the

Cost:

Source of Funding: Various sources will be explored

Summary of Status:

This project was cancelled.

Project Number: 2.2.02

Project Title: **Promotion of energy management practices among Texas water and wastewater utilities**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Sub-objective 2.c: Build operational, managerial, and financial capacity through training of drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region.

Intended Activities:

Promote energy management practices among Texas water and wastewater utilities by conducting quarterly meetings on energy management planning, training on a pumping-system assessment tool, and on-site energy efficiency assessments (key cities include Laredo, Roma, Mission, Agua Specialty Utility District, Edinburg, McAllen, Pharr, Weslaco, Mercedes, Harlingen, and Brownsville).

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Contact Name: David Reazin *E-mail Address:* reazin.david@epa.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): Identify a university partner

Cost: \$75,000 *Source of Funding:* Various funding sources will be explored.

Summary of Status:

Although insufficient funding was available for the original plan, a scaled-back project was completed. EPA partnered with the BECC instead of a university to organize a workshop in late September 2014 in Brownsville, Texas.

Besides the Brownsville PUB as host, other participants included the City of Laredo and Laredo Water Utilities, the City of Pharr, the City of San Benito, the East Rio Honda WSC, McAllen Water Utilities, San Antonio Water Supply, the City of Weslaco, and Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15. Also in attendance were the Office of the Texas Secretary of State, the Community Resource Group, CPS Energy, and the Texas Water Development Board. Presenters and participants discussed best energy management practices and exchanged experiences.

Project Number: 2.2.03

Project Title: **Organization of a workshop on fats, oils and grease (FOG) in Laredo**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Hold a workshop and follow-up meetings with utilities to discuss implementation of FOG programs.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Laredo Utilities

Contact Name: Karla Robles *E-mail Address:* krobles@ci.laredo.tx.us

Collaborating Organization(s): City of Laredo, Webb County and Nuevo Laredo

Cost: \$23,000 *Source of Funding:* Border 2020

Summary of Status:

The entire project (workshop and follow-up meetings) was completed in January 2014.

Laredo Utilities organized a binational workshop in March 2013, presenting "best management practices" with regard to management of fats, oils, and grease. More than 350 people, including representatives from the maquiladora sector in Nuevo Laredo and restaurants in both cities, attended the event.

Laredo Utilities subsequently coordinated two follow-up meetings in August and December 2013, at which participants shared their experience in applying the practices. The utility also produced a 7-minute video about FOG management, for use in the education of commercial establishments. Out of 22 establishments that participated in the original workshop, 14 decreased their amount of FOG generation more than 50%.

Project Number: 2.2.04

Project Title: **Training on management of fats, oils, and grease for small businesses in Reynosa**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Conduct training for small businesses in the Reynosa area on best practices for managing discharges of fats, oils, and grease, including measures both pre- and post-discharge.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Municipio de Reynosa

Contact Name: Mauricio Chalons *E-mail Address:* ecologiareynosa@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: \$16,000 *Source of Funding:* Hope to obtain EPA/BECC grant

Summary of Status:

The project was cancelled.

Project Number: 2.2.05

Project Title: **Public awareness campaign related to non-point source pollution**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Implement a public campaign to increase awareness of problems of non-point-source pollution in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, through signs posted on roadways and at public facilities, messages on a school district television station, presentations at numerous public events and meetings, and newsletters of various organizations.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Contact Name: Javier Guerrero *E-mail Address:* jguer0351@aol.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Fifteen cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley that belong to the Texas Pollution Discharge

Cost: \$40,000 *Source of Funding:* U.S. EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed in 2013.

Workshops were coordinated with the Cities of Harlingen, San Benito, La Feria, Palm Valley, Primera, Weslaco, Donna, Alamo, San Juan, La Joya, Edinburg, Palmview, and Mission. A total of 104 signs were installed by those cities at various locations, and those locations were GPS'd.

Project Number: 2.2.07

Project Title: **Upgrading of sewer line infrastructure to connect to Nuevo Laredo's wastewater treatment plant**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Sub-objective 2.b: Improve energy efficiency and efficient water use provided by drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region.

Intended Activities:

Upgrade and connect five different sewer collection lines to the wastewater treatment system.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: COMAPA Nuevo Laredo

Contact Name: Mr. Delfino Gonzalez C.P *E-mail Address:* dgcdelfino@comapanuevolaredo.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): COMAPA and Municipio de Nuevo Laredo

Cost: \$5,000,000 *Source of Funding:* North American Development Bank (NADBank)

Summary of Status:

BECC certified the project in September 2012, and all work is expected to be completed by January 2015.

The objective was to address five sewer collection lines, all with upgrades. Of the five, one of them was completed by mid-2014 and connected to the wastewater treatment system. The remaining four collectors were under repair and still discharging about 1.6 MGD to the stormwater system. Another discharge point from La Joya Creek was identified by COMAPA and will be repaired after an agreement is signed with a private property owner where it is located.

Project Number: 2.2.08

Project Title: **Workshops and audits on energy efficiency for water utilities in Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Sub-objective 2.c: Build operational, managerial, and financial capacity through training of drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region.

Intended Activities:

Hold workshops on energy efficiency for water utilities and perform energy audits of those utilities in five municipios in Tamaulipas—Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Cd. Victoria, and Matamoros.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza (COCEF)

Contact Name: Abdías Moreno *E-mail Address:* amoreno@cocef.org

Collaborating Organization(s): BECC and the water utilities in Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Cd. Victoria, and Mata

Cost: \$250,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

Workshops were held in 2013, and then final energy audits were presented at a meeting in Matamoros in early July 2014. The audits recommended retrofits requiring a total investment of \$3.7 million, with average payback times of one-two years.

Project Number: 2.3.01

Project Title: **Development of region-specific materials for production of a "Waters to the Sea--Rio Grande" module**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: Work bi-nationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in transboundary waterbodies and watersheds.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Develop and produce region-specific supplemental materials necessary to produce a "Waters to the Sea- Rio Grande" module (place-based education with comprehensive watershed focus). By the end of 2014, recruit and establish an advisory board, produce videos and other materials, identify one or two ISDs to pilot program, and conduct training for at least 25 teachers.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf, Falcon, and Amistad Task

State(s): Texas

Country: United States

Implementing Organization: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Contact Name: Karen Bick

E-mail Address: bick.karen@epa.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): EPA, WET, AWWA, the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University,

Cost: \$150,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA

Summary of Status:

This project was cancelled.

Project Number: 2.3.03

Project Title: **Implementation of local campaigns and land conservation agreements for water-body ecosystems in Coah**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: Work binationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in transboundary waterbodies and watersheds.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Design and begin implementing local public conservation programs related to the Rio San Rodrigo and Arroyo Las Vacas that include land conservation agreements by end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente (SEMA)

Contact Name: Ing. Alejandra Carrera *E-mail Address:* alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMA (State of Coahuila), Municipio de Piedras Negras, Municipio de Acuña and TCEQ

Cost: \$400,000 *Source of Funding:* State of Coahuila and Border 2020

Summary of Status:

The objectives for 2013-2014 were attained.

SEMA obtained EPA funding through the BECC in spring 2014 to restore and conserve the Arroyo Las Vacas.

SEMA has developed partnerships for the arroyo with TCEQ, Ciudad Acuña, local academic institutions, and UT Austin. SEMA and BECC finalized a workplan and are preparing the project's quality assurance plan as required by EPA. In October 2014 in Cd. Acuña SEMA held a ribbon cutting for the Arroyo Las Vacas project and a complementary signing ceremony regarding land conservation.

Several entities are collaborating on the development of a similar project for the Rio San Rodrigo. The projects will promote public awareness and take actions to improve the ecosystems of the arroyo and the river.

Project Number: 2.3.04

Project Title: **Removal of invasive plants from the Rio Grande**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: Work binationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in transboundary waterbodies and watersheds.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

By the end of 2014, increase the activities of the invasive species plant removal program in the Rio Grande on the border of Coahuila.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente (SEMA)

Contact Name: Alejandra Carrera *E-mail Address:* alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMA (State of Coahuila), CONANP, and Profauna

Cost: \$85,000 *Source of Funding:* SEMA, CONANP, Profauna, and others to be identified

Summary of Status:

No information has been available from SEMA.

Project Number: 2.3.05

Project Title: **Regional workshop on water conservation in Laredo**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: Work binationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in transboundary waterbodies and watersheds.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

This water project does not pertain to a pre-established sub-objective.

Intended Activities:

Hold a regional workshop in Laredo and enlist 10 new Water Sense Partners

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Regional *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Laredo Utilities

Contact Name: Miguel Pescador *E-mail Address:* mpescador@ci.laredo.tx.us

Collaborating Organization(s): City of Laredo, EPA, TCEQ, Texas Water Development Board, Piedras Negras Technological

Cost: \$6,000 *Source of Funding:* City of Laredo, EPA, TCEQ and local sponsors

Summary of Status:

The major objective was attained.

A day-long workshop was organized and hosted by Laredo in March 2013. More than 100 persons attended from both sides of the border, including Texas and Tamaulipas state agencies, and discussed conservation strategies. U.S. EPA is not aware of any utilities that joined its team of WaterSense Partners as a result.

Project Number: 2.3.06

Project Title: **Binational water quality initiative for the Lower Rio Grande**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: Work binationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in transboundary waterbodies and watersheds.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Sub-objective 3.a: Develop a binational watershed protection plan in the Lower Rio Grande below Falcon International Dam.

Intended Activities:

Establish a collaborative partnership by early 2013 and make substantive progress on objectives by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas and Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Contact Name: Kelly Holligan *E-mail Address:* kelly.holligan@tceq.texas.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): TCEQ (State of Texas), EPA, IBWC, CILA, CONAGUA, and other federal, state, and local gov

Cost: *Source of Funding:* TCEQ, EPA, IBWC, CILA, CONAGUA

Summary of Status:

Participating entities developed and agreed to terms of reference that serve as the framework for collaboration. Follow-up was partially delayed.

In February and July 2013, the TCEQ hosted training sessions on water-quality modeling software (QUAL-TX and LAQUAL) for Mexican and EPA staff. In July 2014 the TCEQ began taking water samples in the target stretch of the Rio Grande for analysis, but funding was not yet available on the Mexican side. In late 2014 a tentative agreement was made regarding dates for water sampling by both sides in early 2015.

Goal 3: Promote Materials Management, Waste Management, and Clean Sites

Project Number: 3.1.01

Project Title: **Linking and promoting SEMARNAT's "Green Schools" program in Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Register 150 schools in the three Mexican border states in SEMARNAT's "Green Schools" program by July 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf, Falcon, and Amistad Task

State(s): Regional *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Contact Name: Delfino Ramirez *E-mail Address:* Delfino.ramirez@semarnat.tamaulipas.g

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMARNAT/Coahuila and state agencies in Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and Nuevo León

Cost: *Source of Funding:* SEMARNAT

Summary of Status:

SEMARNAT implemented the program very successfully in Tamaulipas and on a very limited basis in Coahuila. No information is available from Nuevo León.

By mid-2013 in Tamaulipas, 135 schools had been registered in the program—33 in Nuevo Laredo, 50 in Reynosa, and nine in Matamoros.

SEMARNAT Coahuila has certified one school in Cd. Acuña in the program.

Project Number: 3.1.02

Project Title: **Bilingual public outreach campaign against illegal dumping in Cameron County, Texas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Design and implement a bilingual public outreach campaign against illegal dumping, using billboards, newspapers, and workshops in schools in Cameron County, Texas. Finish the project by the end of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Lower Rio Grande Development Council

Contact Name: Marcie Oviedo *E-mail Address:* moviedo@irgvdc911.org

Collaborating Organization(s): Cameron County and the Valley Proud Environmental Council

Cost: \$10,000 *Source of Funding:* Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and TCEQ

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

Cameron County and the Valley Proud Environmental Council engaged in a media campaign against illegal dumping, using billboards and newspapers throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The two entities received numerous phone calls during the campaign, expressing concern about the trash that they had seen dumped throughout the valley.

Project Number: 3.1.03

Project Title: **Enhancement of recycling and composting programs in Lower Rio Grande Valley**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Through the purchase of equipment, enhance the the recycling programs in three local jurisdictions and the composting operations in two jurisdictions, all in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, by the end of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Contact Name: Marcie Oviedo *E-mail Address:* moviedo@irgvdc911.org

Collaborating Organization(s): The Cities of Pharr, Mission, McAllen, and Mercedes, and the Town of Bayview

Cost: \$160,000 *Source of Funding:* The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, the TCEQ, and individual local governments

Summary of Status:

All local governments except one completed their projects (Bayview cancelled its activity). The cities expanded and enhanced their recycling capabilities at their recycling centers by purchasing mobile recycling trailers, forklifts, and other equipment. Also, Pharr has introduced Curby the recycling robot in outreach activities, and the City of Lyford hired an enforcement officer to investigate illegal dumping within the city.

Project Number: 3.1.04

Project Title: **Creation of an environmental education organization in Nuevo Laredo**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Establish an environmental organization in Nuevo Laredo in 2013 and affiliate the organization with Keep America Beautiful by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas and Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Reciclado en Acción/Fundación Verde

Contact Name: Tania Gallindo *E-mail Address:* tancira@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Keep Laredo Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, and the Municipio of Nuevo Laredo

Cost: *Source of Funding:* Laredo Environmental Services, local partners, and Keep America Beautiful

Summary of Status:

The project's objectives are expected to be fully completed in early 2015.

Reciclado en Acción/Fundación Verde was established in 2013 and initiated environmental awareness events in Nuevo Laredo. Keep Laredo Beautiful, a division of the the City of Laredo's Environmental Services Department, will be covering the membership fees (about \$6,000) for the organization to be affiliated with Keep America Beautiful.

Project Number: 3.1.07

Project Title: **Expansion of Nuevo Laredo's municipal recycling program**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Nuevo Laredo will expand a municipal recycling program started in March 2012. The program currently consists of public bins in parks. The municipio will place bins in all elementary schools in 2013 and then resume environmental education programs in the schools.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Municipio de Nuevo Laredo

Contact Name: Osvaldo Valencia *E-mail Address:* valencia_osvaldo@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: *Source of Funding:* Municipio of Nuevo Laredo

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

Bins were installed in elementary schools, and environmental education conferences were resumed at elementary schools in February 2013.

Project Number: 3.1.09

Project Title: **Increased distribution of SEDUMA's "E-Conexion" newsletter**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Extend the distribution of the "E-Conexion" newsletter to all Tamaulipas municipios.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretariat for Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Dra. Silvia Casas González *E-mail Address:* silviacasas757@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: *Source of Funding:* SEDUMA

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

SEDUMA expanded the electronic distribution to include 43 municipalities, all their state offices, environmentally certified schools (SIMA-E), and private industry.

To save paper and ink, SEDUMA no longer prints and distributes hard copies. Minor changes were made to the design, and the use of background colors is minimized.

Project Number: 3.1.10

Project Title: **Solid waste management tour of model Texas facilities for Mexican private- and public-sector officials**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Organize a tour of Mexican visitors to a model landfill in Texas and also a major recycling facility.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon and Amistad Task Forces

State(s): Nuevo León and Coahuila *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Contact Name: Eddie Moderow

E-mail Address: eddie.moderow@tceq.texas.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): Red Ambiental (headquartered in Monterrey), the Secretariat for Sustainable Development

Cost: *Source of Funding:* Red Ambiental paid for all travel costs of the visiting delegation

Summary of Status:

The project was completed. The visiting group included fourteen public- and private-sector officials from six Mexican states. They spent two days in Austin in October 2014 talking with Austin City officials and TCEQ staff and visiting the Texas Disposal Systems landfill in Creedmore and the Balcones Resources' recycling facility in Austin.

Project Number: 3.2.01

Project Title: **Increased institutional capacity in scrap-tire management throughout the region**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

The project was completed in 2013.

SDS surveyed more than 20 local governments on both sides of the border and then developed a manual for local governments on best practices for scrap-tire management. With this manual as the focus, SDS collaborated with the TCEQ to organize a binational workshop held in March 2013. Representatives of 10 local governments plus state and federal governments, as well as private industry, attended the workshop.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf, Falcon, and Amistad Task

State(s): Regional *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable (SDS)

Contact Name: Norma Rangel Sevilla *E-mail Address:* normaarangel@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Secretariat for Sustainable Development (State of Nuevo León) and the Texas Commission

Cost: \$35,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

SDS surveyed more than 20 local governments on both sides of the border and then developed a manual for local governments on best practices for scrap-tire management. With this manual as the focus, SDS collaborated with the TCEQ to organize a workshop held in March 2013. Representatives of 10 local governments plus state and federal governments, as well as private industry, attended the workshop.

Project Number: 3.2.02

Project Title: **Preparation and applications of compost from organic urban waste in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Use organic waste generated in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León to make compost and then apply it to agricultural uses and urban gardening. By the end of 2014, compost 100% of organic waste collected by the municipality from large waste generators.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Nuevo León *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable (SDS)

Contact Name: Norma Rangel Sevilla *E-mail Address:* normaarangel@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMARNAT and the Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León

Cost: \$67,000 *Source of Funding:* SEMARNAT

Summary of Status:

This particular project was cancelled and replaced by a related but different project in the same municipio. See project # 3.2.08 below.

Project Number: 3.2.03

Project Title: **Feasibility of using scrap tires for heavy-duty road-bed construction in Brownsville, Texas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Through a demonstration project, assist communities in building capacity for scrap-tire management.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected:

State(s):

Country:

Implementing Organization: Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Contact Name: Dr. Kim Jones

E-mail Address: kfkjdj00@tamuk.edu

Collaborating Organization(s): City of Brownsville, Texas

Cost: \$15,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

With the grant funds available, TAMUK managed a demonstration project that baled approximately 62,500 scrap tires (625 bales), and used 125 of the bales as part of the sub-base of a section of a landfill road bed in Brownsville. TAMUK is looking for an additional \$15-20K to use the remaining 500 bales and complete the extension of the road.

Project Number: 3.2.04

Project Title: **Use of wastewater sludge and yard wastes to create compost for local use in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Develop a composting operation in Nuevo Laredo using sludge from the wastewater treatment plant and from collected yard wastes, and then apply the product in municipal parks as well as in homes (through sales to homeowners). The program, including applications and sales, is expected to be in full operation by sometime in 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas

Country: Mexico

Implementing Organization: Comisión Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado (COMAPA)

Contact Name: Carlos Montiel Saeb

E-mail Address: carlosmontielsaeb@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): COMAPA and the Municipio of Nuevo Laredo

Cost: \$30,000 *Source of Funding:* Municipio of Nuevo Laredo

Summary of Status:

Significant progress was made during the two years of this Action Plan.

By mid-2013 compost was being generated by COMAPA and applied to the germination of seeds and vegetables in the greenhouse of the municipio's Research and Environmental Education Center. The utility subsequently began distributing compost to schools for landscaping and gardening and also began using it at COMAPA facilities.

COMAPA uses 5 to 10% of all the bio solids generated at the wastewater treatment plant for the compost. In 2015 the utility expects to sign an agreement with the municipio to purchase equipment that will enable generation of more compost, and then begin selling it to commercial establishments and businesses.

Project Number: 3.2.05

Project Title: **Development of collection and management program for used electronic products in Reynosa, Tamaulipa**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

The municipio of Reynosa, Tamaulipas will have a collection and management program for used electronic products in full operation by spring 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Municipio de Reynosa

Contact Name: Mauricio Chalons *E-mail Address:* ecologiareynosa@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: \$30,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed.

The first steps of implementation had been taken in August 2012, and the program was in full operation in 2013. In that year, the city collected about 27.7 tons of used electronic waste and sent the material for recycling.

Project Number: 3.2.06

Project Title: **Design and implementation of a state scrap-tire management program in Tamaulipas that includes valuat**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

SEDUMA will develop policies and a management plan for scrap tires by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas *E-mail Address:* seduma@tamaulipas.gov.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): SEMARNAT and EPA

Cost: \$400,000 *Source of Funding:*

Summary of Status:

SEDUMA put the project on hold.

Project Number: 3.2.07

Project Title: **Exploitation of the energy value of waste in Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

SEDUMA will evaluate the ways in which energy could be recovered from waste and put to use. An action plan will be completed by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas *E-mail Address:* seduma@tamaulipas.gov.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): EPA

Cost: \$300,000 *Source of Funding:* SEDUMA and EPA

Summary of Status:

SEDUMA put the project on hold.

Project Number: 3.2.08

Project Title: **Characterization of the municipal solid waste stream in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

SDS will study and characterize the municipal solid waste stream in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Nuevo León *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable (SDS)

Contact Name: Norma Rangel Sevilla *E-mail Address:* normaarangel@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): The Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, NL

Cost: \$25,000 *Source of Funding:* BECC

Summary of Status:

[This project was a replacement for project # 3.2.02, and was not initiated until mid-2014.]

By the end of 2014, the study was 35% completed.

Project Number: 3.3.01

Project Title: **Completion of remediation of old oxidation lagoons in Piedras Negras, Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: By 2020, improve knowledge at every level of government (federal, state, local) to characterize and remediate contaminated sites.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Complete the remediation of the remaining 10.3 acres by the end of 2013, after which the municipality will develop a road extension to and a green area at the site.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Municipio de Piedras Negras

Contact Name: Ing. Maria Teresa Molina *E-mail Address:* teduada@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Secretariat for the Environment (State of Coahuila)

Cost: \$300,000 *Source of Funding:* SEMA

Summary of Status:

Prior to 2012, 19.7 acres of the 30-acre site had been remediated. No new information has been available from Piedras Negras since then.

Project Number: 3.3.02

Project Title: **Cleaning up an old waste disposal site near the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: By 2020, improve knowledge at every level of government (federal, state, local) to characterize and remediate contaminated sites.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Finish the remediation and develop a green area on the site.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: City of Eagle Pass

Contact Name: Hector Chavez *E-mail Address:* hchavez@eaglepasstx.us

Collaborating Organization(s): City of Eagle Pass

Cost: \$3,500,000 *Source of Funding:* City of Eagle Pass plus additional funding source to be determined

Summary of Status:

Remediation of a portion of the site was carried out prior to 2010. In 2014, the city decided that it needed to seek assistance through the TCEQ's Brownfields Site Assessment Program to determine whether the site meets the federal definition of a brownfields site and is eligible for funding under the EPA's brownfields program.

Project Number: 3.3.03

Project Title: **Sustainable scrap-tire management plan for Piedras Negras, Coahuila**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 3: By 2020, improve knowledge at every level of government (federal, state, local) to characterize and remediate contaminated sites.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

The municipio will develop a management plan and put it into full operation by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Coahuila

Country: Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretario de Medio Ambiente (SEMA)

Contact Name: Miguel Angel Leal Reyes

E-mail Address: miguel.reyes@sema.gob.mx

Collaborating Organization(s): Municipio of Piedras Negras

Cost: \$400,000 *Source of Funding:* Unknown

Summary of Status:

By mid-2013, SEMA determined they need to perform a feasibility study on using coal pits as disposal sites for scrap tires. No information has been available since then.

Goal 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

Project Number: 4.2.01

Project Title: **Emergency response plan for the maquiladoras in Brecha E-99 in Reynosa, Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Develop an emergency response plan by the end of 2014.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Unknown

Contact Name: Dr. Emilio Sonderegger Arriol *E-mail Address:* emilio.sonderegger@landisgyr.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Reynosa Industrial Park Mutual Aid Committee

Cost: \$10,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

This project was cancelled.

Project Number: 4.2.02

Project Title: **Determination of database needs related to storage of hazardous materials in Lower Rio Grande Valley**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

#####

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas and Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Contact Name: Paige Delgado *E-mail Address:* delgado.paige@epa.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): Fire departments from Texas and Tamaulipas municipalities in the Gulf Task Force area, E

Cost: *Source of Funding:* EPA and the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)

Summary of Status:

The project has been on hold because of the uncertainty of funding from NORTHCOM.

Project Number: 4.2.03

Project Title: **Binational chemical-spill exercise at the World Trade Bridge (Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas and Laredo, Texas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Hold a binational chemical-spill exercise after the U.S. and Mexican governments have approved permits that allow hazardous waste to be transported on this bridge.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas and Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Protección Civil de Nuevo Laredo

Contact Name: Mr. Juan Ochoa *E-mail Address:* juan.u8a@hotmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): The Laredo Fire Department

Cost: \$5,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA Border 2020 grant

Summary of Status:

The project is on hold.

The U.S. Department of State issued a "presidential permit" in May 2014 to allow the crossing of hazardous materials. The Mexican government is awaiting the completion of water quality study on the Rio Grande that CONAGUA required before the permit is issued. If and when a Mexican permit is issued and both nations sign diplomatic notes, local officials will organize a binational exercise.

Project Number: 4.2.04

Project Title: **Development of a cross-border contingency plan for the Solidarity Bridge near Laredo-Nuevo Laredo**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Include the Solidarity Bridge, which is upstream from Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, to the Joint Contingency Plan for Laredo and Nuevo Laredo by 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas and Nuevo León *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization:

Contact Name:

E-mail Address:

Collaborating Organization(s): Civil protection and fire departments for both Colombia and Nuevo Laredo, CODEFRONT a

Cost: \$0 *Source of Funding:* City of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo

Summary of Status:

See the following project (4.2.05).

Project Number: 4.2.05

Project Title: **Updating the 1998 cross-border contingency plan between Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Hold new meetings of the staff of the two cities in 2013 in order to revisit the language of the draft revision and possibly develop alternative language.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas and Tamaulipas *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: City of Laredo Fire Department

Contact Name: Eloy Vega *E-mail Address:* evega@ci.laredo.tx.us

Collaborating Organization(s): Laredo Fire Department, Protección Civil de Nuevo Laredo, and CILA

Cost: \$0 *Source of Funding:*

Summary of Status:

The project is on hold.

Laredo officials met in 2013 to make changes to one sentence in a draft of the new cross-border contingency plan that had been originally prepared in 2009. The changes were intended to clarify that Laredo could not send personnel across the border, because of security and liability concerns, but could assist in other ways. The revised agreement has been approved subsequently by Nuevo Laredo, but has been awaiting action by the Laredo City Council since that time.

Project Number: 4.2.06

Project Title: **Enhancing the cross-border contingency plans for Texas-Coahuila sister cities**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Complete the new plans for both pairs of sister cities by the end of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Amistad Task Force

State(s): Texas and Coahuila *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza

Contact Name: Briselda Duarte *E-mail Address:* bduarte@cocef.org

Collaborating Organization(s): City of Eagle Pass, Municipio de Piedras Negras, City of Del Rio, Municipio de Ciudad Acuña

Cost: \$130,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA Border 2020 grant through BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed by the end of 2013. Under contract from the BECC, two workshops were organized in the first half of 2012 for staff from the two pairs of sister cities to discuss protocols and risks. After delays and hiring of a new contractor, additional workshops were held in July 2013. In November of that year, the two sister-city pairs each signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for new cross-border contingency plans. Each community committed to providing resources and mutual aid in case of chemical accidents.

Goal 6: Promote Cross-Cutting Efforts related to Environmental Health and Environm

Project Number: 6.0.01

Project Title: **Training health professionals for community outreach in Texas-Tamaulipas related to environmental hazar**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Train promotoras in Laredo and Harlingen, Texas and adjoining areas of Tamaulipas on how to address pre-natal and childhood exposure to pesticides, lead, solvents, second-hand tobacco, and diesel exhaust, so that they can engage in community outreach. Complete the project by the end of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio

Contact Name: Claudia Miller M.D. *E-mail Address:* MillerCS@uthscsa.edu

Collaborating Organization(s): The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio

Cost: \$50,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA border grant through BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was fully implemented in 2013.

Two training sessions were held for 40 promotoras (lay healthcare workers)--20 from the N.Laredo/Laredo area and 20 from Cameron County and adjoining municipios in Tamaulipas. The classes covered 17 types of potentially hazardous exposures during pregnancy and childhood, and how to avoid these exposures. Subsequent to the training, the promotoras provided outreach to 400 pregnant women or mothers with young children in a three-month period. Each of those families made an oral commitment to discuss lessons learned with two other families.

Project Number: 6.0.02

Project Title: **Educating farmworker families on handling and disposal of pesticides in selected areas of Texas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Produce the EPA-written play "El Moscas y los Pesticidas" using students in two locations--a city a city in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Laredo--in the first half of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Texas

Country: United States

Implementing Organization: Association of Farmworker Programs

Contact Name: Noemi Ochoa

E-mail Address: ochoa@afop.org

Collaborating Organization(s):

Cost: \$20,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA border grant through BECC

Summary of Status:

The project was completed in 2013.

Project staff organized student groups in Laredo and Edinburg to perform the play. Total attendance at the two locations was more than 2000 people.

Project Number: 6.0.03

Project Title: **Development of a binational repository of databases on environmental stresses and public health effects**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Review the literature, build a cross-border partnership of professionals at the local, state, and national levels, identify health hazards in the environment and relevant indicators, and build a binational repository of databases by the end of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf, Falcon, and Amistad Task

State(s): Regional *Country:* United States and Mexico

Implementing Organization: Texas A&M Health Science Center, School of Rural Public Health

Contact Name: Genny Carrillo M.D. *E-mail Address:* gcarrillo@srph.tamhsc.edu

Collaborating Organization(s): PAHO, HIDAREY COBINA, Hidalgo County Health Department

Cost: \$50,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA through the BECC

Summary of Status:

Project staff accomplished as much as possible during the grant period, but encountered unanticipated difficulties with selected objectives.

The project reviewed literature, and on the U.S. side talked with local, state, and national environmental health professionals, identified environmental stresses and health effects on the U.S. side to track, and established a repository of databases. The project made contact with local, state, and national health professionals in Mexico but had difficulty finding relevant databases on that side of the border. The ones that were located were online, but tended to be outdated. The project also discovered that the Mexican professionals use different parameters than are used in the United States.

In late 2014 project staff partnered with a Mexican college in obtaining a new grant with related objectives, and are hopeful that the partnership will be fruitful.

Project Number: 6.0.04

Project Title: **Identification of, and education on, environmental health issues in Webb County**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Address children's environmental health issues in Laredo, Texas and Webb County by surveying a sample of homes and identifying health risks, tracking reported exposures through selected hospitals and clinics, developing and implementing a public outreach campaign regarding the identified risks, and identifying and publicizing two relevant online courses available for physicians. Complete the project by the end of 2013.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: City of Laredo Health Department

Contact Name: Waldo Lopez *E-mail Address:* wlopez@ci.laredo.tx.us

Collaborating Organization(s): Laredo Health Department

Cost: \$50,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA border grant through BECC

Summary of Status:

Laredo completed the project by the end of 2013.

Project staff surveyed the use of pesticides and household hazardous materials in more than 135 homes.

More than 50 physicians and health providers were trained on diagnosing illnesses related to pesticide exposure through the use of a web-based diagnostic tool, allowing them to assist survey respondents with symptoms related to pesticide exposure.

Staff distributed publications on lead and pesticides to over 120 homes.

Project Number: 6.0.05

Project Title: **Annual Environmental Summit in the Lower Rio Grande Valley**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Organize annual environmental summits for the public in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, in cooperation with State Representative Eddie Lucio III's office.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Contact Name: Imelda Peña *E-mail Address:* Imelda.Pena@tceq.texas.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): TCEQ and cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Cost: \$15,000 *Source of Funding:* Local sponsors and EPA

Summary of Status:

Valley Environmental Summits were held in October 2013 and October 2014. These were the fourth and fifth in this series of annual events.

An estimated 300 people attended the 2013 Summit. The priority interests were illegal dumping, marine debris, and community cleanup programs.

The 2014 Summit attracted approximately 350 attendees. The topics of interest were sustainability, local enforcement programs, and household hazardous waste programs.

Project Number: 6.0.06

Project Title: **Annual Environmental Summits in Webb County, Texas**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Hold Environmental Summits in Laredo in the fall of 2013 and 2014, in cooperation with State Senator Judith Zaffirini.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Falcon Task Force

State(s): Texas *Country:* United States

Implementing Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Contact Name: Carmen Ramirez *E-mail Address:* carmen.ramirez@tceq.texas.gov

Collaborating Organization(s): TCEQ and the City of Laredo

Cost: \$15,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA and local sponsors

Summary of Status:

Environmental Summits were held in Laredo in October 2013 and November 2014. These were the fourth and fifth in an annual series.

The 2013 Summit had more than 400 attendees. Speakers discussed recycling, energy efficiency, and water conservation.

The 2014 Summit had a theme of "Focus on Nature" and targetted high school students, who comprised a majority of the 325 attendees. Topics included weather preparedness and energy efficiency. There were also hands-on activities on building a natural habitat and sampling water quality parameters.

Project Number: 6.0.07

Project Title: **Extension of Tamaulipas's program in environmental management systems**

Objective under the "Goal" (these are objectives pre-established by Border 2020):

Goal 6 is a creation of the Four-State Regional Workgroup and has no specific, pre-established objectives.

Sub-objective Number and Text (these apply only to some of the water-related projects):

Intended Activities:

Promote the adoption of Tamaulipas/SEDUMA's environmental management program by all elementary schools and state offices in the border region.

Sub-regional Task Force(s) Potentially Affected: Gulf and Falcon Task Forces

State(s): Tamaulipas *Country:* Mexico

Implementing Organization: Secretariat for Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente

Contact Name: Dra. Silvia Casas González *E-mail Address:* silviacasas757@gmail.com

Collaborating Organization(s): Elementary schools in border municipios

Cost: \$300,000 *Source of Funding:* EPA and SEDUMA

Summary of Status:

SEDUMA made significant progress in expanding the use of its guidelines for environmental management programs. This program has the objectives of reducing energy and water consumption and developing waste management programs.

SIMA has two divisions: SIMA-E targets the education sector, specifically elementary schools; and SIMA-I ("I" for Institutional) targets state offices.

More than 90 schools in Matamoros, Tampico, and Victoria have registered for SIMA-E. Each school held workshops on water, waste, and energy efficiency, reaching a total of 26,000 students. The schools also received equipment such as low-flow water toilets, recycling containers, and energy-efficient light bulbs.

Through SIMA-I, more than 1,800 state employees learned about water conservation, energy efficiency, and recycling. State offices that registered for the program received water filters and energy-efficient light bulbs and saved 13.03% on energy costs from January to August 2014, equivalent to \$65,000 USD. Tamaulipas will expand both programs to more schools and state offices in 2015.
